



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Europe Faculty

Working with Europe and the EU

– A New Context

Practitioner Level Training Course
organised by the European Institute of Public Administration
(EIPA), Maastricht on behalf of
the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

London, 3-5 November 2025



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From peace project to geo-political player

Beyond trade

EU relations with its partners (and their side effects on the UK)



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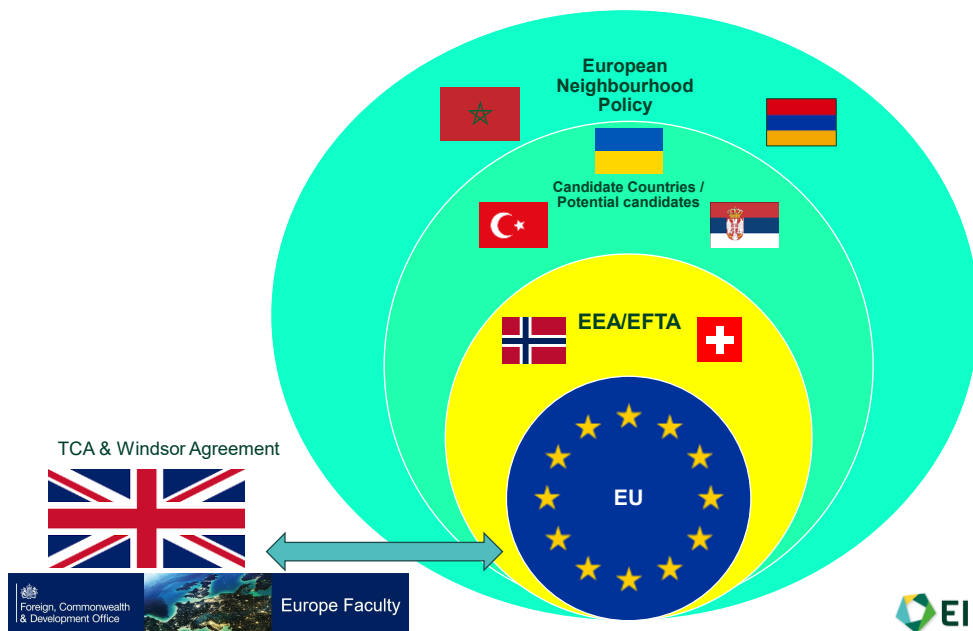


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Brussels effect and the Neighbours of the Union



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EU – Russia relations



- No formal relations EEC-USSR
- 1994: Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- 2004: EU “Eastern” Enlargement / Russia rejects invitation to ENP
- 2007: Russia turning its back on EU, West
- 2008: Military intervention in Georgia
- 2014: Russian aggression of Ukraine I : End of European Security Order
- 2022: Russian aggression of Ukraine II: End of illusions

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EU – China relations



- Relations EEC - PRC established in 1975
- 1985 Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- Trade volume multiplied by 10 since 1989
(EUR 180bn in 2020), both sides now each others biggest trading partners
- After global financial crisis : changing attitudes in Beijing towards market liberalisation
- 2019: **“negotiation partner, economic competitor systemic rival”**
- 2020: Bilateral Investment Agreement (CAI) (ratification frozen by EP)
- China major policy driver behind EU trade policy/external action
 (“strategic autonomy”)

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EU – US relations

- Relationship based much on historic ties
- Post WWII: US support for European security and reconstruction (Marshall Plan), pushing Europeans towards integration
- EU off US strategic radar after 1991
- Biggest trading partner (but for how long?)
- Two failed attempts to conclude FTAs (TAFTA and TTIP)
- New impetus under Biden (TCC), but dividing issues persist (and are even growing...)
- Revival of transatlantic security alliance after Russian aggression
- Trump II: the end of the transatlantic alliance?



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The EU in a multilateral context (1)

- UN: EU not a “peace loving nation”; enhanced observer status at GA with enhanced participation rights
- Different membership status in UN agencies (full member of FAO; simple observer at ECOSOC)



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The EU in a multilateral context: The UN

Right to be included on the list of speakers among representatives of the main groups

Right to take part in the general debate of the GA

(at the end of session – same as for Palestine and the Holy See)

Right to have written communications distributed as official UN documents

Right to present proposals/amendments orally

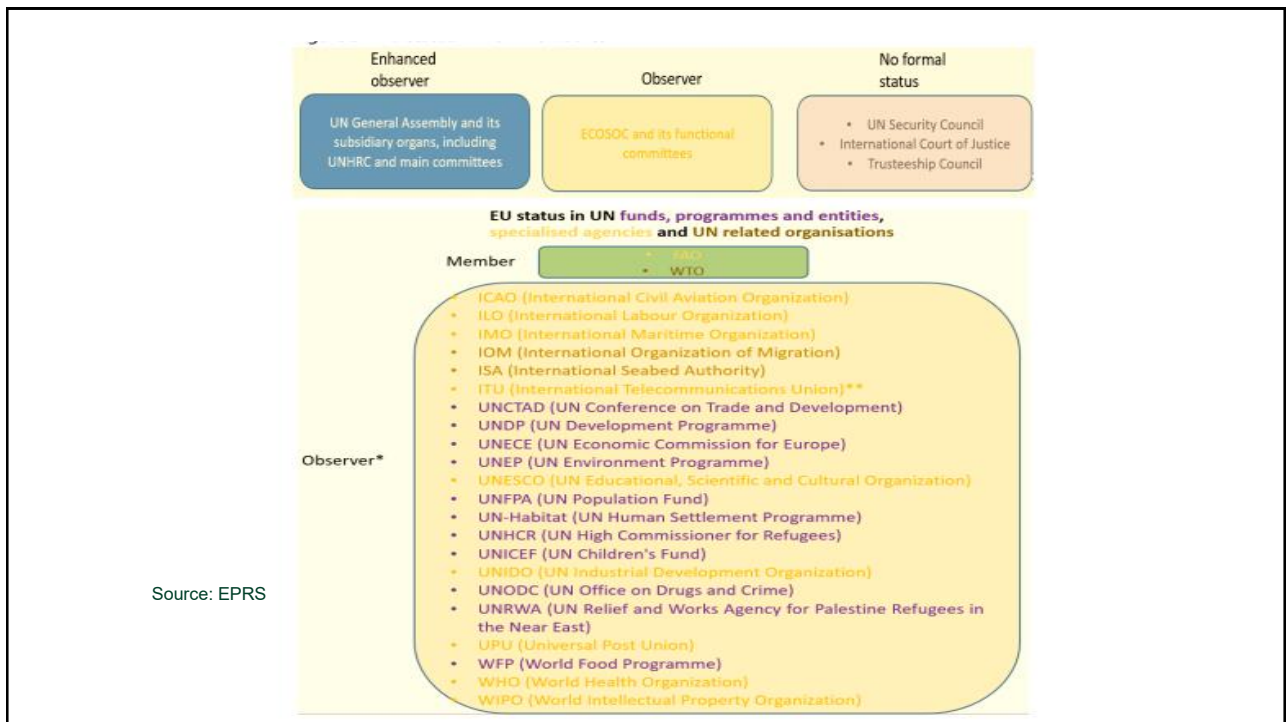
Right of reply (limited to one intervention)

Right to a reserved seat at all United Nations meetings

A/RES/65/276 (3 mai 2011)



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The EU in a multilateral context

- UN: EU not a “peace loving nation”; enhanced observer status at GA with enhanced participation rights
- Different membership status in UN agencies (full member of FAO; simple observer at ECOSOC and specialized agencies)
- Full member of WTO; speaks on behalf of MS
- “Full participant” status at OECD, but not a formal member (“Everything but voting rights”)
- Simple observer at WHO (competences...)
- World Bank/IMF: no formal status, but financial framework partnership agreements
- **Key challenge: coordination of MS positions**

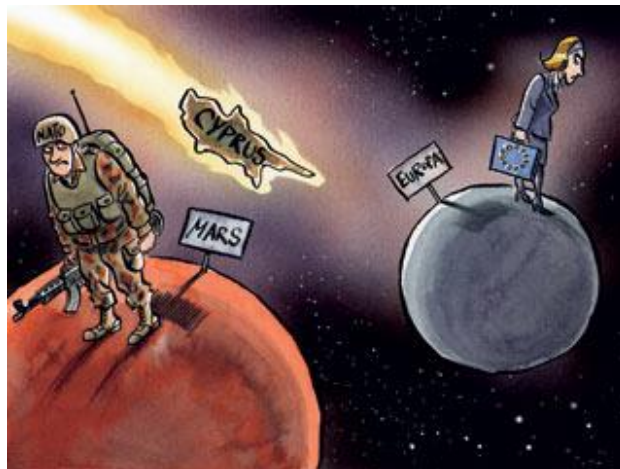
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EU and NATO



- 23 EU Members are members of NATO
- Until end of 1990, direct EU-NATO relations virtually inexistent
- Creation of the European Security and Defence Policy in 1999 (CSDP after 2009)
- « Berlin + » agreement (sharing of assets) 2003
- After EU 2004 enlargement: a « frozen conflict »
- NATO reluctance to share intelligence with some of the new Member States

EU and NATO (2004-2016)



EU and NATO post-2016: a new spring ?



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Warsaw Joint Declaration (July 2016)

Seven key areas of cooperation



Intensifying the political dialogue

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Article 42(7) Treaty on the European Union

- 'If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power, in accordance with article 51 of the United Nations charter. This shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States. Commitments and cooperation in this area shall be consistent with commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which, for those States which are members of it, remains the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation.'

Article 5 Washington Treaty (NATO):

- 'The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.'



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Back to the future?



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EU Climate Diplomacy



29-10-2025 | 17

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EU Climate Diplomacy



- Climate diplomacy as the external dimension of the Green Deal and “Fit for 55”
- After Paris: focus shifts from system building to implementation
- Challenge of diverging priorities with international partners, in particular in the Global South (decarbonization/security/economic development)

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International EU Leadership

Climate Diplomacy

- Cooperation between the EU institutions and the member states
- Preparing the annual COPs and other fora (G7, G20, etc.)
- Mainstreaming of climate policy in EU external assistance (Global Gateway...)
- Explaining EU climate policy to partners and feed priorities of partners back to the EU (not always one of the strengths of the EU)

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Update of the
NDC of the European Union and its Member States



SUBMISSION BY SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

The respect

Madrid, 16 October 2023

- Unde
will
62%

Subject: The update of the nationally determined contribution of the European Union and its Member States

- Regt
redu

covers. Each EU Member State will reduce its emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 in accordance with the following percentage: Belgium 47%, Bulgaria 10%, Czechia 26%, Denmark 50%, Germany 50%, Estonia 24%, Ireland 42%, Greece 22.7%, Spain 37.7%, France 47.5%, Croatia 16.7%, Italy 43.7%, Cyprus 32%, Latvia 17%, Lithuania 21%, Luxembourg 50%, Hungary 18.7%, Malta 19%, Netherlands 48%, Austria 48%, Poland 17.7%, Portugal 28.7%, Romania 12.7%, Slovenia 27%, Slovakia 22.7%, Finland 50%, Sweden 50%

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Informal Fora: (G7/G20)



Informal Fora: (G7/G20)



THE WHITE HOUSE



Administration

Priorities

The Record

Briefing Room

Español

MENU



JUNE 26, 2022

FACT SHEET: President Biden and G7 Leaders Formally Launch the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment



BRIEFING ROOM

STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

The Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment will deliver game-changing projects to close the infrastructure gap in developing countries, strengthen the global economy and supply chains, and advance U.S. national security

G7 - Industry guidance on preventing evasion of export controls and sanctions imposed on Russia

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PRESS RELEASE | Publication 30 October 2023

Commission welcomes G7 leaders' agreement on Guiding Principles and a Code of Conduct on Artificial Intelligence

The Commission welcomes the agreement by G7 leaders on International Guiding Principles on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and a voluntary Code of Conduct for AI developers under the Hiroshima AI process.

These principles and the voluntary Code of Conduct will complement, at international level, the legally binding rules that the EU co-legislators are currently finalising under the EU AI Act.

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, was among those who subscribed to the G7 leaders' statement issued by the 2023 Japan G7 presidency.

President von der Leyen, said:

The potential benefits of Artificial Intelligence for citizens and the economy are huge. However, the acceleration in the capacity of AI also brings new challenges. Already a regulatory frontrunner with the AI Act, the EU is also contributing to AI guardrails and governance at global level. I am pleased to welcome the G7 international Guiding Principles and the voluntary Code of Conduct, reflecting EU values to promote trustworthy AI. I call on AI developers to sign and implement this Code of Conduct as soon as possible.



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See also

[A European approach to artificial intelligence](#)

Related topics

International relations

Artificial intelligence

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Informal Fora: The European Policial Community (EPC)



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Informal Fora: The TTC



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